

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for conveying fruit and vegetable products, particularly grapes, comprising hopper means (2) suitable for receiving said products and screw-feeder means (6) suitable for conveying said products towards an outlet zone (9), characterised in that said screw-feeder means (6) has a variable pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) grows going towards said outlet zone (9).
3. Apparatus according to claim 1, or 2, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder means (6), portions (10, 11, 12, 13), each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a first portion (10), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 200 mm.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3, or 4, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a second portion (11), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
6. Apparatus according to any one of the claims from 3 to 5, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a third portion (12), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 300 mm.
7. Apparatus according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a fourth portion (13), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 400 mm.
8. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said screw-feeder means (6) is arranged below said hopper means (2).
9. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said hopper means (2) comprises a hinged side means (4).

10. Use of variable pitch screw-feeder means (6) for conveying fruit and vegetable products, particularly grapes.
11. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 10, wherein said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) grows along a conveying direction (F) of said products.
12. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 10, or 11, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder means (6) portions (10, 11, 12, 13), each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
13. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 12, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a first portion (10), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 200 mm.
14. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 12, or 13, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a second portion (11), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
15. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a third portion (12), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 300 mm.
16. Use of a screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a fourth portion (13), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 400 mm.